

REMARKS

The Office Action in the above-identified application has been carefully considered and this amendment has been presented to place this application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reexamination and reconsideration of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-37 are in the present application. It is submitted that these claims were patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. The changes to the claims, as presented herein, are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. sections 101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled. Claims 34-37 are added.

Claims 1, 12, and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for failing to provide sufficient antecedent basis for the limitation “the position.” In response, Applicants have amended claims 1, 12, and 23 to initially recite “a position,” thereby providing an antecedent basis for this term. Accordingly, Applicants believe this rejection has been overcome.

Claims 1, 8, 12, 19, 23, and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Oh et al. (U.S. Patent 5,686,956). The Examiner contends Oh’s input picture signal 300 is analogous to the present invention’s storing means (Office Action page 2); but there is no description to support the conclusion that this element has a storage capability. (Column 4, Lines 15 and 59) Assuming arguendo that Oh’s input picture signal 300 has memory, there is still no description of updating signals stored therein as required in the present invention. The

present invention updates the stored digital image signal by: (a) aligning a position of the extracted specific area and a position of a corresponding area represented by the input digital image signal, and (b) “synthesizing the input digital image signal and the digital image signal stored in said storing means.” In this manner, the present invention can decrease the unwanted areas of the digital image signal (which are described as background information in the specification) around the specific area when extracting the signal. This effect is a result of synthesizing the signals with aligned positions. Moreover, since Oh provides no disclosure on updating the signal before extraction or of aligning the position of specific areas, these limitations of the present invention are not met. Further, even if Oh’s background memory 304 is compared to the present storing means, there is still no disclosure that relates updating of the background information to the extraction process. Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Oh fails to anticipate the present invention and the rejected claims should now be allowed.

Claims 1-3, 6-14, 17-25, and 28-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maeda (U.S. Patent 5,274,453). Maeda uses masks and motion information to combine a plurality of images. As shown in Figure 2, Maeda extracts an airship from video signals using mask information. This mask information is first determined by a human operator (items 6 and 16 of Figure 1; Column 3, lines 55-60) and later determined on the basis of a motion vector detected by a motion detecting means 70 (Column 5, lines 3-13). Hence, Maeda updates the mask information itself and there is no disclosure of synthesizing past and present masked information as in the present invention. Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Maeda fails to obviate the present invention and the rejected claims should now be allowed.

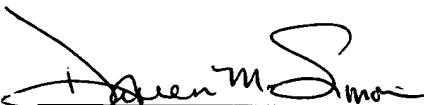
In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application as now presented is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

A fee for additional claims in excess of twenty is deemed to be required for the filing of this amendment. No additional fees are anticipated, but if such are required, the Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below. The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted,
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